Facts About Local Governments in Illinois:

- Illinois has more local units of government than any other state. There are over 8,000 local governments registered with the IL Office of the Comptroller.
- Nearly 90% of Local Governments that submit their annual financial data utilize the Comptroller Connect Internet Filing Program.
- The Public can view all submitted Annual Filing Reports on the Local Government Division's webpage.
- The Local Government Division has a 30 member advisory board. The advisory board consists of 10 local officials, 5 certified public accountants, and 15 public members.
- There are over 1,200 villages and cities in Illinois. Over 300 of these governments have multiple Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Districts. Currently more than 1,000 TIF districts are registered with the IL Office of the Comptroller.





STATE OF ILLINOIS
COMPTROLLER
JUDY BAAR TOPINKA

Local Government Division

100 W. Randolph Street Suite 15-500 Chicago, Illinois 60601

Toll Free Hotline: 877/304-3899 Phone: 312/814-2451 Fax: 312/814-2986

Email: locgov@mail.ioc.state.il.us



Local Government Division

WWW.IOC.STATE.IL.US

Printed by Authority of the State of Illinois 3/2011, 1,000









Dear Local Government:

As we prepare for the financial challenges we will face in the next few years, we have a responsibility, as stewards of taxpayer dollars, to increase our knowledge, awareness, and skills in evaluating, monitoring, and improving the financial condition of our government's finances. Now more than ever the people of Illinois depend on us to make wise and ethical financial decisions, to closely monitor revenues and spending, and to serve as advocates for fiscal responsibility.

The Local Government Division is available to assist you. If you need assistance completing an Annual Financial Report or need guidance to submit your financial information on the Comptroller Connect Internet Filing Program, contact our office.

I wish you the best of luck and look forward to working with you throughout my administration and serving the people of the state of Illinois together.

Best Wishes,

July Baar Topinks

Judy Baar Topinka Illinois State Comptroller

About the Local Government Division

The main responsibilities of the Division are:

COLLECTING Financial Data from Each Local Government.

Local governments are required by statute to submit an Annual Financial Report (AFR), or a Verification of Appropriation Form, or an Annual Registration Form.

There are two ways that local governments can file their AFR—on a paper AFR form or via Comptroller Connect Internet Filing Program. Both are available through the State Comptroller's website.

ACCOUNTABILITY and Fiscal Responsibility Report Card.

The Fiscal Responsibility Report Card Act requires the Comptroller to report annually to the General Assembly on the financial status of Illinois local governments. The information received from local governments is used to complete the annual report.

The Comptroller Connect Internet Filing Program is the simplest, most cost-effective way for a government to submit their AFR.

The on-line process automatically calculates totals and subtotals, reduces errors, requires no additional software and eliminates the need for paper and postage needed for the mailing of AFRs.

Some local governments are required to submit an Annual Audit to the IL Office of the Comptroller, in addition to the AFR. Local Governments that meet specific statutory requirements are mandated to submit an Annual Audit to our office.

Our office is also the central repository for Annual Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Reports which are made available for public inspection.

Completed TIF reports (FY 2010 and on) will be posted on our website within 45 days of receipt.

REGISTERING Units of Local Government in Illinois.

The Office of the Comptroller is the only statewide office that must Register all local government entities in Illinois. The Local Government Division maintains a central registry of all local governments in the state. All units of local government in Illinois are required to register with our office.

EDUCATING and Training Local Government Officials.

The Local Government Division conducts educational and training programs throughout the state to assist units of local government.

Our department helps governments to fill out AFRs, to navigate through the Comptroller Connect Internet Filing Program, and to be aware of statutes that affect their reporting requirements.

In addition, we also provide specialized training programs to target specific concerns. For example, the County Treasurers Training program is customized to assist newly elected County Treasurers in their efforts to fulfill their statutory duties.